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**U.S. ARRESTS TWO FORMER COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS,
OTHERS IN KETAMINE AND STEROIDS DISTRIBUTION CONSPIRACY**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ANTHONY PLACIDO, the Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York field Division, announced today the arrest of two former Columbia Students, BRIAN RAUPP and DAVID PRUITT, and two others, CARLOS COVEAN and BRANDON D'AMICO, in a conspiracy to distribute Ketamine and Anabolic Steroids.

The alleged conspiracy involved the sale of Ketamine and Steroids via email, including RAUPP's alleged use of the Columbia University email account he received in connection with his status as a Columbia student.

RAUPP, PRUITT, COVEAN and D'AMICO are charged in a Complaint unsealed yesterday in Manhattan federal court. The Complaint charges the defendants with conspiring to violate federal narcotics laws by distributing Ketamine and Anabolic Steroids. Specifically, RAUPP and his co-conspirators are

charged with offering Ketamine and Steroids for sale over the internet, receiving payment for the drugs at a Mailboxes, Etc. franchise in Morningside Heights in Manhattan, as well as in Matawan, New Jersey, and shipping the purchased drugs to customers in the New York metropolitan area and Florida.

The Complaint alleges that RAUPP, while enrolled as a student at Columbia in the fall of 2002 and continuing through May 2003, took orders via email for both Ketamine, a chemical intended for use as an equine tranquilizer, and Anabolic Steroids. In order to do this, RAUPP used an email account bearing a pseudonym, but instructed purchasers to send payment to a Mailboxes Etc. franchise located in Morningside Heights and used exclusively by RAUPP. Once RAUPP received payment, he arranged for the drugs to be mailed to the purchaser, it was charged. A number of the Ketamine and Steroid shipments were allegedly mailed from California by co-conspirator PRUITT, who is also a former Columbia student, and whose attendance overlapped with RAUPP's.

The Complaint further alleges that during the course of the conspiracy, RAUPP moved from the New York metropolitan area to California. In order to maintain his narcotics trafficking, RAUPP allegedly arranged for customers to send payment to an address in Matawan, New Jersey. Payment at that address was received by co-defendant D'AMICO, according to the Complaint. In addition, one customer mistakenly mailed payment for a large

shipment of Steroids to the Morningside Heights Mailboxes, Etc. box, which was no longer controlled by RAUPP, according to the Complaint. Once the customer notified RAUPP of this problem, RAUPP allegedly notified the Mailboxes, Etc. staff that he would arrange for another co-conspirator to receive the envelope containing the payment. Co-defendant COVEAN allegedly arrived at the Mailboxes, Etc. shortly thereafter to receive the payment. In addition, law enforcement officers intercepted a package from PRUITT that was addressed to COVEAN; the package contained 250 10 cc vials of Ketamine, it was charged.

The Complaint further alleges that during late 2002 and early 2003, RAUPP used his official Columbia email account to discuss narcotics trafficking with a co-conspirator not charged in the Complaint ("CC-1"). Specifically, RAUPP is accused of sending emails to CC-1 stating that "business is horrible. I had a couple hundred ttokyos that I could only get \$25 each on. The biz is a lot more competitive now. Furthermore Jorge Bravo was busted and ttokyo is shut down so there are no more licks to even buy except the generics which people don't like for some reason."

The content of this email is consistent with an investigation from the Southern District of California, where from 2001 through and including 2002, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") was conducting an investigation of a Ketamine laboratory known as "Ttokyo" in Mexico. In the course of the Southern District of California investigation, the DEA

shut down the Tokyo laboratory, and arrested a number of individuals for conspiracy to distribute Ketamine, including an individual named Jorge Bravo. Similar additional emails are alleged in the Complaint to have facilitated the conspirators.

RAUPP, 26, lives in Dana Point, California, where he was arrested yesterday.

PRUITT, 23, lives in Venice, California, where he was arrested yesterday.

D'AMICO, 28, lives in Old Bridge, New Jersey, where he was arrested today.

COVEAN, 28, lives in Old Bridge, New Jersey, and surrendered to the DEA today.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$2 million or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the DEA. He said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney SAMUEL G. WILLIAMSON is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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